

DAILY BULLETIN

JANUARY 18, 2005

U.S. ANNOUNCES ACCELERATED PLAN FOR TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM

Effort is part of Global Earth Observation System of Systems 1

U.S. FOREIGN AID NEARLY DOUBLES UNDER BUSH, STATE DEPT. SAYS

U.S. world's largest donor of official assistance, it reports 3

U.S. FOREIGN EDUCATION AID BUDGET TRIPLING, STATE DEPT. SAYS

Learning assistance promotes economic growth 3

RENEWED EFFORT SOUGHT TO TREAT HIV/AIDS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Agency says situation is critical in Caribbean, Central America..... 4

REPORT PREDICTS TERRORISTS WILL THRIVE, BUT IN NEW WAYS

Globalization may help terrorist groups expand their influence 5

U.S. ANNOUNCES ACCELERATED PLAN FOR TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM

Effort is part of Global Earth Observation System of Systems

By Cheryl Pellerin

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Bush administration announced a plan January 14 to expand U.S. tsunami detection and warning capabilities in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans as part of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), the international effort to develop a comprehensive, sustained and integrated Earth observation system.

At a press briefing in Washington, officials from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the National Science Foundation said they are ready to invest \$37.5 million in the plan over the next two years.

"President Bush is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of U.S. lives and property through a system of monitoring and emergency response that will mitigate the effects of natural disasters, including earthquakes and tsunamis," said John Marburger, science advisor to the president and OSTP director.

"This plan will enable enhanced monitoring, detection, warning and communications that will protect lives and property in the U.S. and a significant part of the world," Marburger said. "Working through GEOSS

and other international partners, the U.S. will continue to provide leadership in planning and implementing a global observation system and a global tsunami warning system, which will ultimately include the Indian Ocean," he added.

The newly announced U.S. plan will allow significant warning capabilities for all of the Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean areas, a vast stretch of the world's oceans, said NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher.

"We are bringing to the international table a significant contribution to a global system and we look forward to working with our international partners to develop an end-to-end system," Lautenbacher said.

Marburger said the additional commitment of funds represents an acceleration of an existing U.S. plan that might have taken some years to put in place.

"These events happen about once every decade in the Pacific and in the Indian Ocean they are rare, so the planning that had been done up to this time was quite useful," he said. "But world attention has been focused on the vulnerability of those near the edge of oceans, and we have the responsibility to respond."

With the new investment, NOAA will deploy 32 new advanced technology Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) buoys for a fully operational tsunami warning system by mid-2007. The USGS will enhance its seismic monitoring and information delivery from the Global Seismic Network, a partnership with the NSF.

According to NOAA, the new system will provide the United States with nearly 100 percent detection capability for a U.S. coastal tsunami, allowing response within minutes or seconds. The system will also expand monitoring capabilities throughout the entire Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean basins, providing tsunami warning for regions bordering half the world's oceans.

The United States has led the GEOSS effort since 2003, when the G-8 called for establishing a global observation system. The Bush administration launched the GEOSS process by hosting the first Earth Observation Summit in July 2003.

GEOSS now has 54 participating nations, including India, Indonesia and Thailand, and each country will make its own contribution to the global earth observing

system. The U.S. component of GEOSS is called the Strategic Plan for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System, which, like the GEOSS plan, focuses on nine societal benefit areas, including reducing loss of life and property from disasters and protecting and monitoring ocean resources.

The U.S. component won't stop at the nation's borders, Marburger said. "Enhancements to the U.S. system, which is being developed as an integral part of GEOSS, will benefit neighboring countries - Canada, Mexico, Caribbean countries and Central and South America - and enhance the existing Pacific tsunami warning system, which already has 26 member states."

The design for the new global GEOSS system is set for adoption at the Third Earth Observation Summit in Brussels February 16.

The U.S. plan for a tsunami warning system will build on existing efforts by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Marburger said.

UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura announced January 12 at the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States in Mauritius that the United Nations plans to have an Indian Ocean tsunami early warning system up and running by June 2006, with a global system operational a year after that.

Marburger explained that an early warning system for any kind of natural disaster requires much more than buoys or other devices.

Key components of an ideal tsunami warning and response system include risk assessment, a detection system, a warning system for alerting vulnerable populations to take action, a response plan, an educated public, situational awareness during the event and an emergency infrastructure.

Information about GEOSS is available at:
<http://earthobservation.org/>

Information about the draft U.S. strategic plan is available at:
<http://iwgeo.ssc.nasa.gov/>

U.S. FOREIGN AID NEARLY DOUBLES UNDER BUSH, STATE DEPT. SAYS

U.S. world's largest donor of official assistance, it reports

Following is a fact sheet issued January 14 by the State Department on the increasing level of U.S. official assistance to developing countries:

U.S. Nearly Doubles Foreign Aid

The U.S. is the world's largest donor of official development assistance (ODA).

U.S. ODA disbursements increased from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$16 billion in 2003 and are expected to increase to \$19 billion in 2004.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief will increase funding to fight the pandemic in Africa and the Caribbean. The Plan seeks to treat at least two million people with anti-retroviral therapy, prevent seven million new infections, and care for 10 million persons infected with and affected by HIV, including orphans and vulnerable children. The Emergency Plan focuses its efforts in 15 countries in Africa and the Caribbean, which are home to nearly 50 percent of HIV infections worldwide. The U.S. is spending \$865 million on global AIDS in 2004.

The President's new Millennium Challenge Account Initiative [MCA] received \$1 billion in 2004 and an additional \$1.5 billion in 2005 to reward developing countries that rule justly, foster economic freedom, and invest in their people. In 2004, 17 countries were invited to submit proposals for MCA assistance.

The U.S. Water for the Poor Initiative, a three-year program established in August 2002, has already surpassed its target of \$970 million. In just two years, more than \$1.2 billion have been invested to improve the sustainable management of water resources in over 70 countries. The initiative will leverage an additional \$208 million in local funds for water supply and wastewater services.

For more on U.S. developmental assistance go to:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=January&x=20050114111418AKllennoCcM0.3841669&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

U.S. FOREIGN EDUCATION AID BUDGET TRIPLING, STATE DEPT. SAYS

Reports learning assistance promotes economic growth

Following is a fact sheet issued January 13 by the State Department on U.S. education assistance to developing countries:

President Bush Triples Basic Education Assistance to Developing Countries

President Bush's FY05 [fiscal year 2005] budget more than tripled basic education assistance from \$126 million in 2001 to almost \$400 million in 2005.

To date, the Africa Education Initiative has collectively provided 110,126 teachers with in-service training and 20,507 teachers with pre-service training -- far surpassing the goal of 30,000 for in-service and just over the goal of 20,000 for pre-service.

U.S. global leadership in education promotes real growth, reduces poverty, and brings hope to millions around the world.

In Afghanistan, USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] support to the Back-to-School campaign provided 25 million textbooks for 2.9 million students in FY03 [fiscal year 2003], including nearly 1 million girls, 30 percent of the total. USAID also supplied 30,000 teacher supply kits and 15,000 students' school supply kits. More than 50,000 teachers have received a food commodity salary supplement equal to 26 percent of monthly income, raising income and boosting morale.

In 2003/2004, 457,509 foreign students were enrolled at U.S. universities and community colleges to obtain skills needed to build a better world.

In 2004, U.S.-funded training programs within the U.S. and abroad provided needed job skills to more than 268,000 citizens in the developing world.

The U.S. is a major bilateral donor for the global Education for All Initiative (EFA), now active in 39 of the 49 least developed countries. Seven of these are involved with the EFA Fast Track Initiative.

Sources:

Afghanistan -- 2004 Afghanistan Annual Report. Cover Memo and SO 306-002 Discussion
<http://cdie.usaid.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=ucAR2004.searchAdv>

Foreign Students in U.S. -- Open Doors Online, Report on International Educational Exchange
<http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=49930>

Training -- TraiNet. This is a preliminary number. The official number will be released in early 2005.

EFA -- 2005 EFA Global Monitoring Report. Table 5.9 and pages 191-193
http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=35939&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Basic Education Funding -- 2005 and 2004 Congressional Budget Justification, table 2C
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/summtables.html>

http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2004/fy04_sumtable.html (2002 funding)

These [data] include all USAID-managed program accounts, including those co-managed with the State Department. (Excludes accounts covering administrative expenses). Program funds are broken out by the agency's three program pillars and then further broken down by programs of special interest.

For more on U.S. development assistance go to

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=January&x=20050114111418AKllennoCcM0.3841669&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

RENEWED EFFORT SOUGHT TO TREAT HIV/AIDS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Agency says situation is critical in Caribbean, Central America

By Eric Green
 Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The countries of the Americas should make a renewed effort to fulfill their commitment to cover 100 percent of the treatment needs for people with HIV/AIDS in the Western Hemisphere, says a United Nations Health Agency.

In a January 12 statement, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said that the region's 34 heads of state at the January 2004 Special Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey, Mexico, endorsed an ambitious program to cover all of the treatment needed by people in the hemisphere with HIV/AIDS, which would amount to 600,000 people by the end of 2005.

But PAHO said that despite significant progress, less than 50 percent of the people in many countries of the region who need treatment are getting anti-retrovirals, the drugs being used to stop or inhibit the multiplication of HIV.

The situation is particularly critical in the Caribbean and in Central America, where some countries have just started to provide treatment, said PAHO.

The cost of the anti-retrovirals is a significant barrier to universal access, but there are also other important challenges, said PAHO. Carol Vlassoff, head of PAHO's HIV/AIDS Unit, said that in many countries of the region, the health systems and services required to deliver care and treatment to people living with HIV are inadequate and are not expanding rapidly enough to satisfy demand.

In spite of that, countries have shown that it is possible to rapidly increase treatment, even in the worst affected areas, as in the case of Haiti, the Bahamas, and Honduras, said PAHO. The agency said factors that helped to accelerate treatment are increased resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and decisions such as the one made by the Brazilian government to help with the anti-retroviral needs of Bolivia and Paraguay.

The United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund, a public/private partnership involving governments, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities. The United States has pledged nearly \$2 billion of the \$5.4 billion pledged to date by all nations, corporations, individuals, and charitable foundations.

Additionally, President Bush's fiscal year 2005 budget requests \$2.7 billion for international AIDS programs, a 272 percent increase over the \$725.6 million spent by the United States in fiscal year 2001. The \$2.7 billion is part of the president's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion initiative helping countries in Africa and the Caribbean to turn the tide in the global effort to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

For its part, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has declared its commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean. This region, said USAID, remains a high priority in the fight against the global pandemic. USAID operates HIV/AIDS programs in 14 countries of the region, with Haiti and Guyana the "focus countries" under President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In addition, two regional programs -- in the Caribbean and Central America -- provide HIV/AIDS resources.

PAHO's Carol Vlassoff said that even in countries that meet 100 percent of the demand for treatment, there is a need to reach out for those who need medication and do not seek health care. Some people, she said, avoid treatment for fear of stigma, while others are afraid they will be discriminated against in health services.

Stigma and discrimination also prevent people from getting tested. As a result, a large number of people with HIV are unaware of their status and of the fact that they may need medication. PAHO said an estimated 3.14 million people in the Americas live with HIV.

Progress toward the target set in 2004 for HIV/AIDS at the Mexican Special Summit will be examined at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in November 2005, to be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

REPORT PREDICTS TERRORISTS WILL THRIVE, BUT IN NEW WAYS

Globalization may help terrorist groups expand their influence

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Terrorist groups will continue to use conventional weapons and explosives in future attacks -- adding new creative destructive twists while adapting constantly to elude counterterrorist efforts, according to a newly released intelligence forecast.

"Terrorists probably will be most original not in the technologies or weapons they use, but rather in their operational concepts -- i.e., the scope, design, or support arrangements for attacks," the forecast, issued January 13 by the National Intelligence Council, says.

Strong interest in acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons increases the risk of a major terrorist attack involving these kinds of weapons, the council's report says.

"Our greatest concern is that terrorists might acquire biological agents or, less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties. Bioterrorism appears particularly suited to the smaller, better-informed groups," the report says.

Terrorists can be expected to continue to conduct cyber attacks designed to disrupt critical information networks like computer systems and communications systems, and -- even more likely -- cause physical damage to information systems, it says.

The report -- "Mapping the Global Future: Report of the National Intelligence Council's 2020 Project" -- is the third unclassified report prepared by the National Intelligence Council, which is the think tank of the U.S. Intelligence Community. The report takes a 15-year look into the future, identifying fresh global trends that might develop to influence world events.

The key elements that have spawned international terrorism today show no signs of abating over the next 15 years, it says, and it is likely that terrorists will enlist the benefits of globalization to further those objectives.

"Facilitated by global communications, the revival of Muslim identity will create a framework for the spread

of radical Islamic ideology inside and outside the Middle East, including Southeast Asia, Central Asia and Western Europe, where religious identity has traditionally been strong,” the report says.

The council found that this revival has been accompanied by a deepening solidarity among Muslims who have been caught up in national or regional separatist struggles, such as in Palestine, Chechnya, Iraq, Kashmir, Mindanao in the Philippines, and southern Thailand.

“Informal networks of charitable foundations, madrassas [religious schools], hawalas [informal banking systems], and other mechanisms will continue to proliferate and be exploited by radical elements,” the report says. And alienation among unemployed youths will swell the ranks of those vulnerable to terrorist recruitment.

Gradually, the council expects, the international terrorist group al-Qaida will be replaced by similarly inspired Islamic extremist groups. And it is likely that these groups will merge with local separatist movements.

“Information technology, allowing for instant connectivity, communication, and learning, will enable the terrorist threat to become increasingly decentralized, evolving into an eclectic array of groups, cells, and individuals that do not need a stationary headquarters to plan and carry out operations,” the report says.

The global Internet will provide a ready resource for training materials, targeting guidance, weapons know-how and fund raising for terrorists and their loosely knit structures, it says.

Other major points in the 2020 Project forecast:

- The United States will retain enormous advantages, playing a pivotal role across the broad range of issues -- economic, technological, political and military -- that no other state will match by 2020.
- The possession of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons by other nations increases the potential costs of any future military action by the United States.
- A counterterrorism strategy that approaches the problem on multiple fronts offers the greatest chance of containing and ultimately reducing the terrorist threat.
- The likely emergence of China and India, as well as others, as major global players will transform the geopo-

litical landscape, with impacts potentially as dramatic as those in the previous two centuries.

-- The council sees globalization -- which it defines as a growing interconnectedness reflected in the expanded flows of information, technology, capital, goods, services, and people throughout the world -- as an overarching “mega-trend.” It is seen as a force “so ubiquitous that it will substantially shape all the other major trends in the world of 2020.”

The entire 2020 forecast may be viewed on the Internet at:

http://www.cia.gov/nic/NIC_2020_project.html